


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 POTENTIAL HAZARDOUS WASTE SITE IDENTIFICATION		REGION VI	SITE NUMBER TXD 987989357
NOTE: The initial identification of a potential site or incident should not be interpreted as a finding of illegal activity or confirmation that an actual health or environmental threat exists. All identified sites will be assessed under the EPA's Hazardous Waste Site Enforcement and Response System to determine if a hazardous waste problem actually exists.			
A. SITE NAME Austin Gas Light Co.		B. STREET (or other identifier) Corner of 2nd and Colorado	
C. CITY Austin		D. STATE TX	E. ZIP CODE 78701
G. OWNER/OPERATOR (if known) L. NAME		F. COUNTY NAME Travis 453	
		2. TELEPHONE NUMBER	
H. TYPE OF OWNERSHIP (if known) <input type="checkbox"/> 1. FEDERAL <input type="checkbox"/> 2. STATE <input type="checkbox"/> 3. COUNTY <input type="checkbox"/> 4. MUNICIPAL <input type="checkbox"/> 5. PRIVATE <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 6. UNKNOWN			
I. SITE DESCRIPTION <p>A coal gasification plant at the turn of the century. Historical research (attached) also indicated an address of 105 W. 2nd. The exact location and current site conditions need to be determined.</p> <p>Sources: (attached) Austin Historic Center Resources Drive-by</p>			
J. HOW IDENTIFIED (i.e., citizen's complaints, OSHA citations, etc.) Karst Environment Site Discovery		K. DATE IDENTIFIED (mo., day, & yr.) 3-7-90	
L. SUMMARY OF POTENTIAL OR KNOWN PROBLEM			
M. PREPARER INFORMATION 1. NAME: Dorcas Kircher, FIT Geologist Kelly Bowles, FIT Geologist			
2. TELEPHONE NUMBER (214) 742-6601		3. DATE (mo., day, & yr.) 3-8-90	

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United States
Environmental Protection
Agency

PA-600/7-85-004

February 1985



Research and Development

**SURVEY OF TOWN GAS AND
BY-PRODUCT PRODUCTION AND
LOCATIONS IN THE U. S. (1880 - 1950)**

Prepared for

Office of Environmental Engineering and Technology

Prepared by

**Air and Energy Engineering Research
Laboratory
Research Triangle Park NC 27711**

SUPERFUND FILE

SEP 17 1992

REORGANIZED

Anstine Gaslight & Coal
TXD987989357

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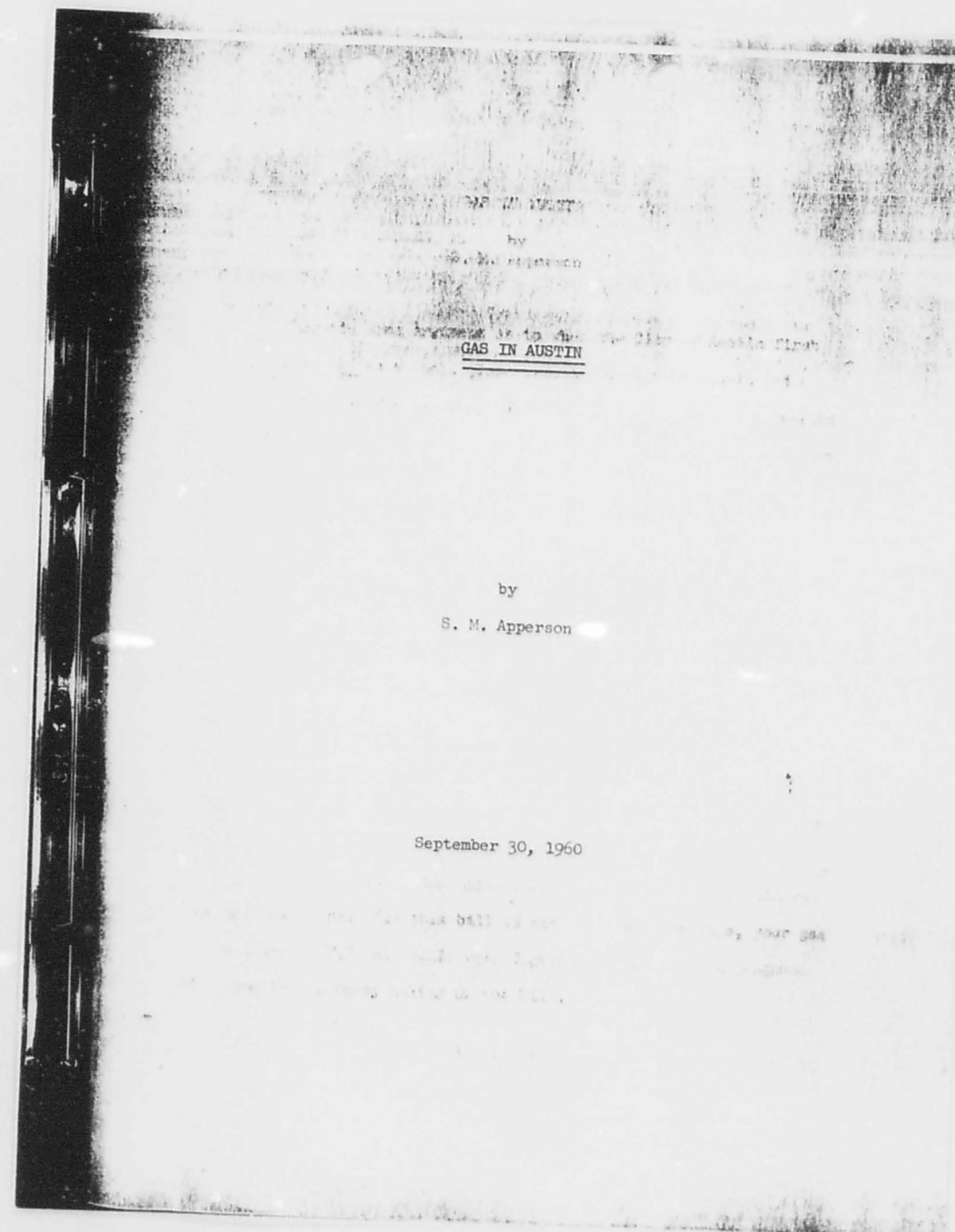
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Austin Gaslight & Coal
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GAS IN AUSTIN

by
S. M. Apperson

There is some argument as to when the City of Austin first had the use of GAS as a fuel. Some seem to think that Austin had a Gas Company back as far as 1859, but we know definitely that Galveston was the first town in Texas to have a gas distribution system and that went into operation in 1856.

We do have records, however, showing that the original franchise for gas distribution in Austin was granted to Sylvester Watts of St. Louis, Missouri, on October 11, 1899. The franchise stated, "that a good article of gas not less than a standard of fifteen (15) candles at a price not to exceed three dollars and fifty cents per thousand feet." Also, we have a gas bill rendered to a customer in Austin in 1900. The rate at that time was \$4.00 per thousand cubic feet of 500 British Thermal Unit gas. If at that time you were fortunate enough to "COOK WITH GAS", you received a \$1.75 per thousand cubic feet refund. As a good example of how little thought was given to public relations at that time, in the upper right hand corner of the bill was printed these words: "If this bill is not paid in three days, your gas will be turned off." All bills were figured and made out in longhand and signed by the party making up the bill.

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The first name of the Gas Company was the Austin Gaslight and Coal Company with a Mr. W. E. Holmes, Manager. This name was maintained until approximately 1912, when the distribution system was purchased by the Gas & Electric Improvement Company of Chicago with Mr. E. C. Beach, President, and the name changed to the Austin Gas Light Company.

Of course, the gas served to the people of Austin then was called "artificial" or "manufactured" gas. The first plant was at Fifth and West Avenue, and pine knots were used to make the gas.

Then there was developed two types of manufactured gas--water and coal. With the water gas set, or plant, steam was passed through heated coke and a carburetor or tank in which oil was sprayed on bricks heated to about 1200°F. The steam picked up the gas from the coke and mixed it with gas from the oil. This mixture, of course, then went through purifiers, tar and ammonia extractors, to remove all impurities.

With the coal gas set, coal was put into white-hot retorts and steam passed through picking up the gas from the coal. This gas then went through a similar purifying process to the water gas. When the coal was in the retort four hours, it was pulled out and you had coke, which at that time had a ready market for heating and industry.

The first water gas set was built at Second and Colorado Streets, eliminating the plant at Fifth Street and West Avenue. About 1910 the coal gas plant was built at Third and Medina Streets, and a

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couple of years later a water gas set was built at the same site, where gas was manufactured until natural gas was turned into the lines in March of 1928.

The gas or business office was at 907 Congress Avenue from the time of the first records, before 1900, until June 1, 1940. The old gas plant property was used as a service center until late fall of 1960.

It is interesting to note that as much attention was given to the "candle power" of the gas as to the heating value in the early days because most of the gas was then used for lighting. It was during the early part of the Century that cook stoves, water heaters and space (or room) heaters began to be manufactured in any quantity. All of the cook stoves had the oven below the top burners, as today, and the usual retail price was \$16.00 for a 16" oven and \$14.00 for a 14" oven. The first water heaters were a coil heater hung on the side of a tank. It was about 1910 that the high oven, or a range with the oven along side of the cooking top, came into being and a few years later the first automatic coil water heater came to Austin.

A Mr. H. M. Moore was the Manager of the gas company from about 1900 to 1912, at which time O. T. Knies became Manager and remained in that capacity until August of 1937, when he became Vice President.

The first gas meters were called "regular meters"; they were read at the end of the month and bills were issued. Then came

Page 4

the "quarter" or "prepay" meters in which the customers inserted a quarter, used a predetermined amount of gas, and then had to put in another quarter. These meters were read and "robbed" (the quarters taken out) at the end of each month. The "quarter meters" began to disappear about 1915 and by the time of the advent of natural gas, there were very few in Austin and they were all changed to "regular" meters at that time because the gas rate went on a sliding scale rate, meaning that the more gas you used the cheaper it became. This type of rate, of course, is still in effect.

In May of 1927, it was learned that Lone Star Gas Company was extending its line to serve Temple with natural gas at a rate of 67½¢ per 1000 cubic feet. Mr. M. H. Reed, then President of the Austin Chamber of Commerce, contacted Lone Star and they stated they would bring natural gas into Austin. Mr. Reed contacted some men relative to forming a company and asking for a franchise. This was done by John B. Pope, Will T. Caswell and Otto Stolley. However, City Attorney J. Bouldin Rector ruled on June 2, 1927, that the City could not grant a franchise to private citizens unless they actually owned a supply of gas.

Then Mr. Reed, through the Chamber of Commerce, appointed a committee to see what could be done about getting natural gas to Austin. The members of the committee were as follows: E. P. Cravens, Chairman; Tom Butler, Vice-Chairman; Mrs. Elizabeth Gariner, Geo. Dowell, Edwin Kreisels, Geo. Shelley, J. W. Springfield, H. A. Wroe,

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Page 5

F. W. Sternenberg, Carl H. Mueller, M. H. Reed, John B. Pope, W. T. Caswell, Otto Stolley, Sam Sparks, Eldred McKinnon, Adolph Kohn, John Bryant, Martin Andersen, W. H. Folts, Albert W. Wilkerson, L. J. Schneider, Oscar A. Rosenberg, M. C. Parrish, J. G. Wilcox, W. E. Dozier, Nick Linz, E. P. Schoch, J. C. Clopton, W. L. Stark, W. T. Williams, A. D. Bolm, R. Miles Graham, W. H. Stacy, Edgar Fox, Julius Schutze, W. D. Drake, B. L. Dillingham, Sr., and William F. Wolf.

This committee, in a subsequent meeting about one week or ten days after being formed, heard representatives of the Lone Star Gas Company and the Peoples' Utilities Texas Corporation (predecessor to Austin Gas Company and successor to Austin Gas Light Company), explain their proposals to bring natural gas into Austin.

As it was impossible to get concerted action by such a large committee, a smaller or sub-committee was appointed. Named to this sub-committee were: E. B. Gravens, Chairman; T. J. Butler, Vice-Chairman; City Attorney J. Bouldin Rector, John B. Pope, and John F. Springfield. After many months of negotiating Mr. E. C. Deal, President of Peoples' Utilities Corp.; A. E. Knies, Vice President; F. L. Ohrston, President of F. L. Ohrston & Company, made the City a proposition and presented a check in the amount of \$50,000.00 to guarantee delivery of natural gas in Austin by March 1, 1928. This proposition was accepted by the City and natural gas was turned into the distribution system of the Austin Gas Company in February of 1928.

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Page 6

The gas company retained the name Austin Gas Company until May of 1929 when, under a reorganization, it became the Texas Public Service Company and remained under that name until July 21, 1949. It was then taken over by the Southern Union Gas Company. Southern Union Gas Company was organized in 1929 as a Texas company and about 75% of the stock is still owned in Texas. Mr. Wofford Cain, one of the two founders of the company, is still Chairman of the Board of Directors. The home office is in Dallas and the company now serves about 65 communities in Texas, Arizona, New Mexico and Colorado.

When natural gas came to Austin in 1928, there were approximately 6500 meters. Below is a table showing the growth of Austin by the increase in gas meters:

<u>Year</u>	<u>Gas Meters</u>	<u>Miles of Mains</u>
1930	9,356	155.76
1940	17,352	240.82
1950	32,887	373.65
1960	52,350	590.64

As a matter of record, we are listing the names, dates and officers down through the years:

E. C. Beach - President, Austin Gas Light Company from April, 1913 to December 20, 1926.

L. O. Gordon - Vice President, Peoples' Utilities Texas Corp. from December 20, 1926 to September 22, 1927.

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Austin Gas Company from September 22, 1927 to May 3, 1929.
Texas Public Service Company from May 3, 1929 to July 9, 1936.
A. T. Knies - Vice President, Austin Gas Light Company from January 1,
1914 to December 20, 1926.
Peoples Utilities Texas Corporation from December 20, 1926
to September 22, 1927.
Austin Gas Company from September 22, 1927 to May 3, 1929.
Texas Public Service Company from May 3, 1929 to August 1, 1937.
Wm. Lawlor, Jr. - President, Texas Public Service Company from April 27,
1938 to July 17, 1946.
Vice President, Texas Public Service Company (Del) from
February 27, 1946 to July 21, 1949.
Robert B. Holland - President, Texas Public Service Company (Del) from
July 17, 1946 to July 21, 1949.
Wm. Lawlor, Jr. - Vice President, Southern Union Gas Company from July 21,
1949 to June 1, 1960.
C. H. Zachry - President, Southern Union Gas Company from July 21, 1949
to March 14, 1960.
J. C. Reid - President, Southern Union Gas Company from March, 1960 to
present.
D. J. Crowley - Manager, Austin District, Southern Union Gas Company from
August, 1959 to present.

More and More People are

COOKING WITH GAS

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FURNITURE DEALERS, GARY THE LARGEST LINE IN THE CITY

Y DIRECTORY [ARN] 61

r. 1010 Lavaca cor W. 11th.
Irahim & Andrews, r. 908

Texas State Lunatic Asylum.
14 Rosengren, bds A. H. Barnum.

YING ASSOCIATION, Office
Lavaca, Julius Bachman, agt. See

over 200 E. 6th cor San Jacinto,
Austin.

FOR MARKET, Bowman &
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inson.

Navasota.
public; prest board of managers
ice over 622 Congress ave, r. 400

orator, r. 404 E. 18th.
ackson, h. Charles Waters.

nger, bds Shipman House,
to, rms same.

es
pulsada

e end E. 6th e of city limits,

ry teacher, r. 304 W. 14th.
708 Guadalupe

urr, r. ss Hackberry e of Comal.
gs Printing House, r. 207 W. 15th.

ht and Power Co., rms 707 Lavaca.
ss, r. 108 Lavaca.

lanson.
r. ss W. 9th nr city limits.

McCarthy, rms 714 Congress ave.

Vice-Prest Gerhard Hard-
n, bds Mrs. A. Voigt.

Anderson, r. same.
bds Val C. Giles.

414 E. 6th, r. same.
gitt & Warmoth, r. 1015 E. 6th.

Asylum, r. same.

W. A. GLASS.

W. H. LITTELMAN & CO. BUILDERS' HARDWARE
J. C. ROAK HOUSE FURNISHING GOODS

BERGEN, DANIEL & GRACY, INSURANCE AGENTS, Bermingham Building, 105 East Pecan or 6th st.

62 [ARV] MORRISON & FOURMY'S [AUS]

Arvidson Andrew, wks John W. Robertson, r. same.
Asberry Mary (wid R. H.), r. 205 W. 15th.

Asbury Ruby Miss, wks Dr. R. M. Swearingen, r. same.
Ashton Alfred (c), lab, r. ns E. 6th 2d block e of Comal.

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Atkinson John W., carp, r. 709 W. 14th.

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E. 4th, Frank Heerman & Bro., proprs. See outside back cover.
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AUSTIN GASLIGHT AND COAL CO., Office and Works
105 W. 2d, Sylvester Watts, prest, St. Louis, J. W. Parker, vice-prest;

Atchison, Kan; Eugene Bremond, treasr; Arthur E. Judge, secy and
supt. See advt.

AUSTIN GLOBE, Office Brueggerhoff Bldg, over 925 Con-
gress ave, Sharp R. Whitley, editor and propr.

Austin Henry, university student, bds A. S. Rutherford.
Austin House, 912 Brazos cor E. 10th, Thomas J. Neavitt, sr., propr.

AUSTIN ICE FACTORY, se cor W. 1st, Colorado, Joseph
Brunet, propr; Joseph J. Brunet, mgr.

Austin Implement Co., Anthony W. Horton, agt, 400 E. 6th cor Trinity.
Austin Lafayette (c), plasterer, r. ss E. 11th bt San Marcos, Waller.

AUSTIN MARBLE WORKS, Dealers in Marble and Granite
monuments, marbleized iron, and slate and iron mantels, iron fencing

and cretings, yard and office 1302-1310 Colorado cor W. 14th, A. J.
Jernigan, propr; Geo. F. Jernigan, mgr. See advt.

W. A. WYSCHETZKI & CO. Transient and Gen'l Land Business.
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Austin City Railroad Co., office 709 Congress ave, W. H. Tobin, prest;

G. A. Proctor, secy and treas.

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Carlson August, painter, bds Mrs. Emma Newberg.

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